

Department of the Army  
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# **AWOL and the CONSEQUENCES**

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# ***SUMMARY of CHANGE***

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Not applicable.

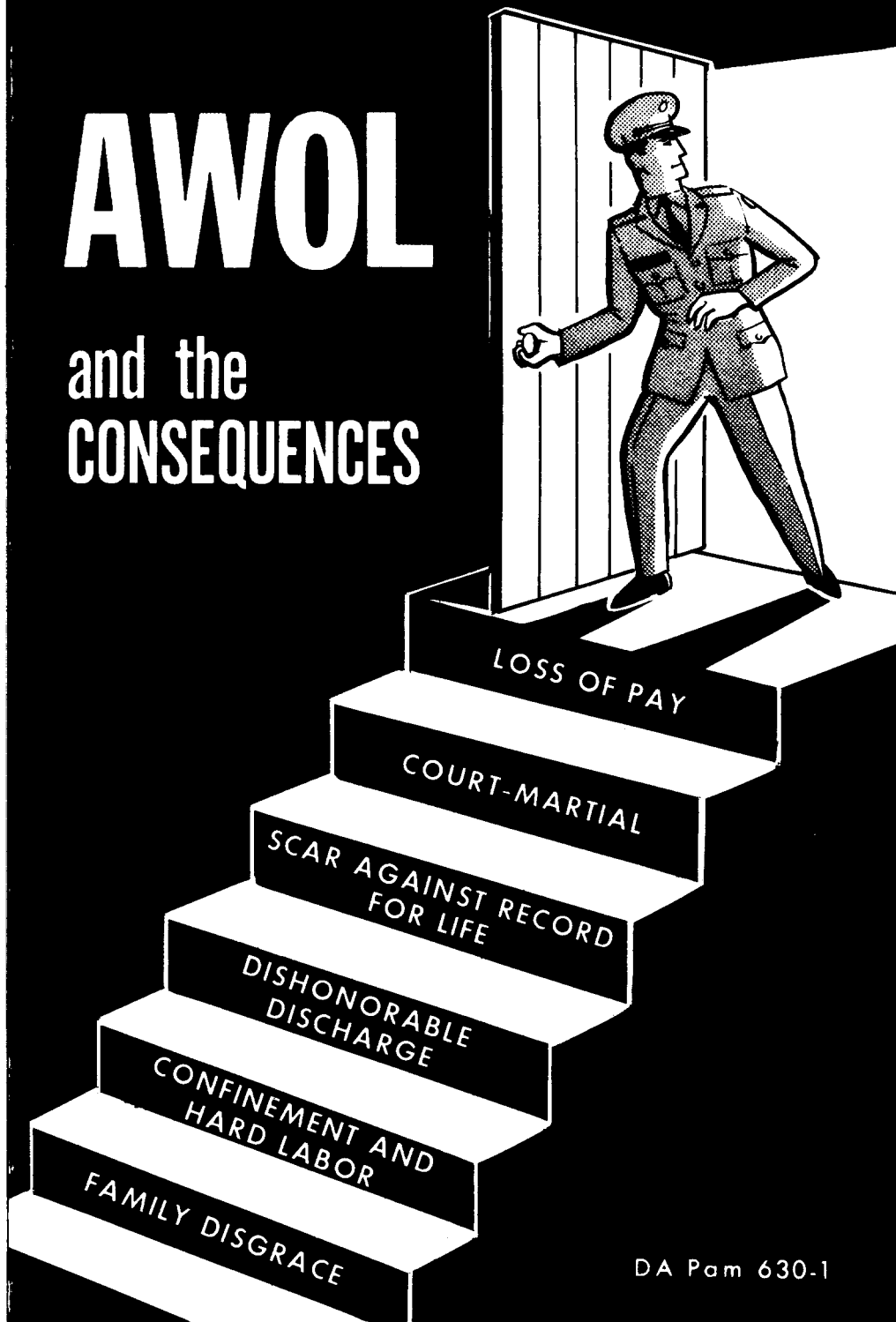
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# AWOL

## and the CONSEQUENCES



DA Pam 630-1

## AWOL and the CONSEQUENCES

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**By Order of the Secretary of the Army:**

**E. C. MEYER**  
*General, United States Army*  
*Chief of Staff*

**Official:**

**ROBERT M. JOYCE**  
*Major General, United States Army*  
*The Adjutant General*

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## 1. What Price AWOL

Many servicemen who go AWOL are not aware of the seriousness of the act. AWOL is a serious offense, as much so as larceny, fraud or robbery; and yet, some soldiers seem to think that AWOL is only playing “hooky” for awhile. They don’t realize the costs, penalties, embarrassment, and grief to themselves and loved ones that the thoughtless act can bring.

## 2. Soldier Outlaw

If YOU go AWOL:

- Notification that you are a fugitive or outlaw wanted by the Army is made to:  
Your family — Police in your hometown — Sheriff of your county — FBI — Military Police — The Adjutant General Washington — Commander of Army in which your home is located.
- Your security clearance is withdrawn.
- There is a reward for your arrest.



Figure 1. Soldier Outlaw

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### 3. Harm to Others

- Your allotments and family allowance may be stopped.
- Your serviceman's Government Life Insurance may be discontinued.
- Your family may be refused medical care and benefits, commissary and PX privileges.
- You bring shame upon your family.
- You bring discredit to your unit and associates.



Figure 2. Harm to Others

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### 4. Police Record is Indelible

- More than 99 out of every 100 who go AWOL are captured.
- You are then a prisoner—confined, fingerprinted, and photographed.
- Your record will be a dark shadow the rest of your life — when you ask for a job, when you apply for credit, or wherever good character is a requirement.



Figure 3. Police Record is Indelible

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## 5. Birds of a Feather

As a prisoner, you will be locked up, guarded and watched. You will have placed yourself in and will be thought of as part of a group that includes:

- Persons of low intelligence and poorly educated.
- Mentally — emotionally unbalanced persons.
- Criminals, alcoholics, deviates.
- Un-American and unpatriotic soldiers.
- Ignorant “know it alls” who say “I have nothing to lose.”



Figure 4. Birds of a Feather

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## 6. The Court-Martial

Sooner or later you will face the music—conviction by a court-martial marks you a criminal and can mean:

- Heavy fine.
- Loss of rank and pay.
- Confinement at hard labor.
- Dishonorable or Bad Conduct Discharge.



Figure 5. Court-Martial

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## 7. AWOL or Desertion

What you believe to be AWOL may really be desertion — intent to avoid hazardous duty or shirk important service. Don't take a chance on ruining your life.

## 8. Talk to your CO

If you think you really need a leave or pass, discuss it with your First Sergeant and talk to your CO. Level with them!



Figure 6. Talk to your CO

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## 9. Ask for an Extension

If some emergency keeps you from getting back to your unit on time, telephone or wire your CO—before your leave expires. If this is not possible, contact the nearest military police or Armed Forces Police. They will help.



Figure 7. Ask for an Extension

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## 10. Ask for Help

If you need money for transportation or some other emergency, contact your CO, the Red Cross, or the Army Emergency Relief.



Figure 8. The Red Cross and the Army Emergency Relief

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**DON'T BECOME A CRIMINAL**  
**DON'T GO AWOL**

Figure 9. Statement

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